

	Question	Answer(s)
3	What was the transplant patient tx'd with that got him better?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
4	Should I be asking my patients how far the nasopharyngeal swab was inserted in order to determine whether I should trust the test results?	More information is always useful, but I think it just speaks to the fact that none of our tests are perfect. In this case, with an immunosuppressed patient and CT findings, the suspicion was very high. In some clinical trials, we've actually used daily self-collected nasal swabs (not nasopharyngeal) to diagnose infection, trusting that with a 90% sensitivity the daily tests will catch it.
5	Given the concerns about contracting Covid, have you seen more admissions related to poorly controlled chronic conditions?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
6	In terms of long-term sequelae of COVID-19, I have heard anecdotal reports of myocarditis and coagulopathy (DVT) -- is this something that occurs uncommonly? I am a bit surprised we haven't been hearing more about these sequelae.	<a href="#">live answered</a>
7	You mentioned the use of CT scan, and in a COVID-19 negative patient. Exactly when does CT can become a choice?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
8	After first covid positive result, about how long does it take to turn to negative result in patient?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
12	If someone lives in a household with someone symptomatic for Covid, should they get tested if they remain asymptotic?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
15	For the monoclonal antibodies, have you seen them being used in long-term care settings? If so what have been the outcomes?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
16	Do you think access to Remdesivir improve because it doesn't seem very available in all settings?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
17	Did we find that there were "improved" outcomes for patients on prednisone for RA pre COVID even if having a severe case?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
18	Was race considered when determining if a patient qualified for antiviral or monoclonal antibody?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
19	If we have a pt in a LCTF who is DX with COVID-19 and eventually placed on O2, should we initiate Dex at the LCTF before transport to the ED?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
20	There were some early reports of famotidine having some benefit, were any studies done?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
21	Do you happen to know if any monoclonals can be used in pediatric patients under 12 years of age?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
22	Are there any Covid-19 treatment guidelines for children?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
23	Please comment on the racial makeup of the participants in the clinical trials for Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson. What were the % of African Americans, % of non-white Hispanics, % Native Americans in the trials?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
24	What is your response to patients who hear patients have died after receiving vaccines? I try to educate as much as I can.	<a href="#">live answered</a>
26	As you mentioned messaging is so important during this vaccination effort. One big question that we are being asked in the community is - how long does immunity last after getting the vaccines AND what is the incidence of contracting again?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
27	Any info on vaccine use in school aged children?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
28	Is there any data on if the vaccines affect incidence of long COVID?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
29	What about vitamin C, vitamin D, and zinc as supportive care?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
30	Do patients on ACE inhibitors have a different response to the vaccines? Should they be stopped in patients with Covid 19?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
31	Any thoughts on vitamin D benefits as part of the management?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
32	What resources are best for me to access to keep track of clinical enrollment within the trials?	Good question. The <a href="https://clinicaltrials.gov">clinicaltrials.gov</a> sites for each of the vaccines will say whether they are recruiting or not (for example, novavax was changed to "active, not recruiting" yesterday - <a href="https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04611802">https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04611802</a> ) but that is a bit difficult to follow. I seem to be finding out from twitter and company news releases and coworkers.

33	How long is the immunity going to last for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines? Is there protection offered for international travel? If so how long the patient should wait before travel after the vaccine?	Good question - they're still following all the participants to find out how long they last. We're not that far out, so we don't know yet. But based on peak antibody levels - at least as long as natural infection and likely longer. In terms of travel, we know there is some protection starting at 10d from infection, but i recommend 2weeks from the final dose (2nd dose for mRNA vaccines, only one dose for J&J) to assume protection from severe disease. Unfortunately we don't have great data on reducing transmission, so there may still be risk for transmission (particularly with the novel variants) with new exposures and travel.
34	Have you heard of any SE from moderna vaccine that includes flare of any arthritis, inflammatory response? ie: flare of low back pain	I know a significant proportion of patients do have fatigue and muscle aches after vaccination, but I haven't seen it specifically in regards to arthritis symptoms.
35	What is the time course of side effects related to the vaccine? (Ie. Fever, flu-like sx) Have studies looked at pre-medicating with pain relievers before vaccine...medicating after vaccine to address side effects?	Great question. Most side effects happen early, within hours and stopping after a day (at most 2). We don't recommend pre-medication to prevent symptoms because studies in kids with other vaccines showed that if you pre medicate you reduce the immune response. Hasn't been directly studied in covid, but not recommended. That said, we have slightly less concern for blunting immune response after vaccination, so I recommend that patients go ahead and take antiinflammatories after vaccination if they're feeling poorly. Also, good to let patients know that not everyone has side effects, so waiting to see if they're going to have side effects is the more prudent option.
36	What percentage of individuals that had COVID-19 were sick again with COVID-19-like symptoms after the vaccination?	I don't have hard numbers, but anecdotally a lot of people i know who had covid then got vaccinated had noticeable side effects to teh vaccine - more muscle aches, tiredness, etc. We also have studies showing that if you had covid then got the vaccine, the first shot of the vaccine is as potent as two doses in someone who had never been vaccinated. So it makes sense - you're getting that second dose / booster immune response with the first dose.
37	What is the latest about getting the vaccine if you are planning to get pregnant? Are there any contraindications?	There are no contraindications to getting the vaccine before pregnancy. Pregnant individuals were not included in the trials, but all the animal safety studies for each of the vaccines showed safety in pregnancy, and there is no real mechanism to suggest there might be harm from vaccination. Knowing the real risk of covid, and no known risk of the vaccine, i recommend pregnant individuals with any potential exposure (particularly healthcare workers) go ahead and get vaccinated. Also, mom can transfer antibodies to the baby, so there's that additional protection for baby.
38	Any info on the vaccines effectiveness on transmission?	The FDA EUA review showed viral load data for the J&J vaccine - it was small numbers, but basically if you got infected, you still shed about the same amount of virus. however, by reducing infections you reduce overall community transmission. But we haven't had really detailed study results yet (it's ongoing)
39	Any information on patients who were infected with covid within 90 days who want to receive the vaccine?	We have been recommending waiting the 90d for two reasons: 1) we know they should be protected from reinfection for at least 3 months (and likely longer), so no need and we need to preserve supply (at least until more vaccines are available). 2) patients infected who get teh vaccine soon afterward have anecdotally had more noticeable side effects of the vaccine (myalgias, fatigue) and so we'd like to spare them that.
40	Can you explain about covid-19 brain and other neuro effects from contracting covid?	Not something i'm as familiar with, but i found the loss of sense of smell and taste to be a fascinating novel symptom of covid-19, and that's clearly a neuro effect (i suspect local inflammation around those neurons causing the symptoms - it doesn't infect neurons directly) I suspect some level of brain fog / fatigue is just due to the inflammatory response without reflecting active viral replication in the brain. Covid19 is really a disease of hte respiratory tract, it doesn't cause a CNS infection. In mice you can make a model that will show CNS infection, but those are really artificial models that overexpress the ace2 receptor in a bunch of irrelevant tissues.
41	How long after Covid infection do you get the Covid vaccine?	Current recommendations are >90 days (more explanation in another comment)
44	Please can you clarify did you say the Antibody response from COVID-19 infection could last years depending on the antibody response mounted? With the new Semi Quantitative SARS CoV-2 tests we can now document that persons with milder infection do not mount as high as antibody response as those withmore moderate infections.	Our information on antibody duration is obviously limited by the recency of the SARS-CoV2 emergence. However with SARS and MERS we saw that people who were more severely ill and had higher antibodies to begin with also had those antibodies last a bit longer. Thankfully our vaccines seem to be generating antibody responses as high or higher than in infected individuals, so they should last a bit longer. But we don't have absolute knowlege of duration yet, and we don't know if individuals with antibodies who have waned are still able to mount a memory reponse years later.
45	Dr. Deming, is there any research on efficacy of ivermectin?	Unfortunately ivermectin is not effective. I'd look at the NIH guidelines for updates <a href="https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/antiviral-therapy/ivermectin/">https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/antiviral-therapy/ivermectin/</a>
46	Are the higher cases in the US compared to other countries due to more testing in the US?	No. Testing doesn't cause cases (just like a pregnancy test doesn't cause pregnancy). See the JHH covid testing site: <a href="https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/international-comparison">https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/international-comparison</a> . "Looking at the positivity rate (ie, out of all tests conducted, how many came back positive for COVID-19) is the most reliable way to determine if a government is testing enough. A high rate of positive tests indicates a government is only testing the sickest patients who seek out medical attention and is not casting a wide enough net." Currently the US is at 5.04%, which is an improvement - we had been significantly undertesting the past few months (we had a percent positivity of >13%, which indicates we were missing a lot of cases).

47	So for a patient who is being required by an employer to obtain the vaccine and they are still within the 90 day window. What is recommended? Does the pcp provide a letter stating the guidelines? or have them proceed with obtaining the vaccine?	Unfortunately that would be dependent on the employer and the patient preference - if they'd accept the letter I'd recommend that, but some patients may prefer to just go ahead and get vaccinated to make things simpler. There is no concern that getting vaccinated will cause harm, just the discomfort of those early vaccine sideeffects in the first 24-48hrs. Unfortunately I think we'll see lots of these cases if, for example, airlines require documentation of immunity. Hypothetically a quantitative antibody assay may also serve as a replacement, but we don't have that yet.
49	Finding a lot of resistance to just Covid-19 testing in Cecil county (d/t pandemic fatigue, disbelief, etc). I have to talk many patients into getting a test, they think if they don't test, they don't have it. What may be the miss on the numbers? The actual estimate of cases, not tested? Some sources have indicated 4x, is that accurate?	<a href="#">live answered</a>
51	Can you get the B117 if you have had the original COVID-19 strain?	live answered (summary - unclear, theoretically can occur, separate reporting would be beneficial for clarification)
52	How are these new strains making it to the US?	live answered (general travel)
53	After being infected with covid many patients are concerned about what the virus has done to his/her organs and come in requesting a full work up or "full body scan". What is the recommendation for patients after having covid for an exam/work up?	This should be symptom directed. If they have specific complaints, investigation is warranted, but no general diagnostic work up is indicated at present post-COVID.
54	I have heard that the variant strains are more contagious, should we be double-masking?	live answered (see CDC, recommendation for well fitting mask, in healthcare setting use surgical or N95, ensure patient is masked as well)
55	What is the risk for newborns contracting covid? And what are the typical outcomes? Are they worse than the general pediatric patient population?	We just don't have enough data to know. We are recommending parents and care providers try to protect themselves to help prevent transmission to children and infants until we know more.
56	Will MD's phase 2 & 3 have subcategories like phase 1?	live answered (summary - likely to be broader as more vaccine doses become available, with clearer messaging from the State)
57	Are independent pharmacies able to obtain vaccine?	live answered (yes, please email <a href="mailto:mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov">mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov</a> for more information)
59	What are all the eligibility criteria for monoclonal abxy?	live answered (clinical symptoms and timing of illness, will follow guidelines on this)
60	i have patient who was vaccinated, and 7 days later got symptoms of covid and tested ++	The vaccines do not have fully efficacy until approximately 2 weeks after the final dose, so can still contract COVID within the first few weeks.
61	Will the recording of this presentation be posted somewhere after?	Yes. The updated handbook and recording will be available at <a href="https://mmpci.com/previous_seminars.htm">https://mmpci.com/previous_seminars.htm</a> .
62	Do we have information if women who want to get pregnant, if they should get the vaccine?	See. Dr. Deming's excellent answer above. (#37)
63	How much covid-19 vaccine will help to defense against new variant?	live answered (vaccines are crucial, and may not have same efficacy against variants but are effective against variants and outcomes)
64	Is the vaccine safe in breastfeeding mothers. are there any research available	live answered (see CDC)
65	Thanks for your response. I am specifically curious about the recurrence of neurological effects of COVID-19, such as memory loss	live answered (Dr Blythe could not provide specifics, but anyone else can respond)
66	Vaccine, then 7 d later covid sx and test + and got monoclonal infusion--does that affect the efficacy of the vaccine?	Most likely to affect side effects related to the vaccine, but efficacy should be unchanged.
67	How long antibody helps once person gets infected with coronavirus?	live answered (MAB help quickly, if natural immunity or from vaccine, will not be immediate to be effective. Generally saying 2 weeks after 2nd dose of 2 dose vaccines)
70	Do we need eye protection to prevent infection?	SARS-CoV-2 appears to be spread by droplets and some aerosolization, so while masks are most important, eye protection can improve protection.
71	Since one can test positive for COVID after recovery, how would one in such a case get a "negative test" that is needed for travel?	It's tricky. We have lots of patients with persistent positives, but if the PCR remains positive, it appears that an antibody test will help show whether you are still infectious and if it is safe to travel.
72	What is email address for vaccine distribution for providers interested?	<a href="mailto:mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov">mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov</a>
73	Any info on the effectiveness of transmission prevention with Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?	Still outstanding.
76	Is it true, that those patients who do not have side effects to either of the two doses of the vaccine, likely to have mounted a very poor immune response to the virus had they contracted the virus? In other words, is a strong stimulation of the immune system to the vaccine an indication that one would have been more resilient to the actual disease?	This is not fully understood, but it appears that even without side effects, the vaccines are still broadly protective against severe disease.
77	My 87 y/o mother-in law has not been able to get the first dose in PG County. What can she do?	If local sites are full, the mass vaccination sites may be easier to get a spot (eligibility is state-wide). For example: <a href="https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine">https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine</a>
79	How long does the immunity last? How long after the second dose is the person fully protected? Is international travel OK few weeks after second dose?	We don't fully know how long protection lasts. We think COVID disease probably confers immunity from reinfection for approximately 4-6 months, but this is variable We don't yet know about vaccine durability, but studies are ongoing.